

Chlamydia can cause Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), which can be very painful and can affect the uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries and may lead to pregnancy in fallopian tubes (ectopic pregnancy). In men, Chlamydia that is not treated can cause infection and pain in the testicles (balls).

### **What are the common side effects of this medicine?**

Some side effects of azithromycin include diarrhea, nausea, belly pain, headache and throwing up. This is very common and is not serious. Remember that if you throw up in the hour after taking your medicine, you need to be treated again.

### **What if I have an allergic reaction after taking this medicine?**

Very serious allergic reactions are rare, but can occur. *If you have any of these problems after taking this medicine you should **call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room:***

- **Trouble breathing/chest tightness**
- **Closing of the throat**
- **Swelling of the lips or tongue**
- **Hives (bumps on the skin that itch very much)**

**When you feel better you should also report your allergic reaction to 311 so that the Health Department can find out how many people had problems with the medicine.**

### **What is Chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is one of the most common STDs in men and women. You can get Chlamydia from having vaginal, oral or anal sex.

### **What are the signs and symptoms of Chlamydia?**

Most people who have Chlamydia do not have any symptoms. But even if you do not have any symptoms, you can still pass the disease on to other sex partners.

*Women with signs or symptoms might have:*

- Yellow or white discharge from the vagina
- Pain or bleeding during or after sex
- Bleeding between periods
- Burning or pain when you pee
- Lower belly pain, cramps and back pain
- Nausea
- Fever

*Men with signs or symptoms might have:*

- Yellow or white discharge (drip) from the penis
- Burning or pain when you pee
- Burning or itching at the opening of the penis
- Pain or swelling in the testicles (balls)

### **How can chlamydia be prevented?**

The only way to avoid STDs, including HIV, is to not have sex. If you do have sex, you can avoid the chance of getting an STD, including Chlamydia, by using condoms correctly EVERY TIME you have vaginal, anal or oral sex.

**If you have any questions or concerns about EPT or azithromycin, please call 311 or contact your doctor or nurse.**

**For more information about Chlamydia and other STDs, you can visit our website at [www.nyc.gov/health/ept](http://www.nyc.gov/health/ept)**

# Stopping the Spread of Chlamydia: Messages for Partners

## **Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)**



## **Important information about your sexual health.**

### **Please read very carefully.**

#### **Why am I getting medicine or a prescription for medicine?**

Your sex partner has recently been treated for a sexually transmitted disease (STD) called Chlamydia, and you may have Chlamydia too. Your sex partner is bringing you medicine or a prescription to treat Chlamydia for you to take as soon as possible. If not treated, Chlamydia may make it hard for you to have children in the future (women and men) and may cause painful infection of the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes in women, and testicles (balls) in men.

#### **What is Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)?**

A new law was passed in New York City and New York State that allows doctors and nurses to give medicine or a prescription to people diagnosed with Chlamydia so that they can give it to their sex partner(s). This is called Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT).

#### **What is the cure for chlamydia?**

Chlamydia is easily treated with one dose of an antibiotic called azithromycin (a-zith-row-mice-in). Azithromycin is also called Zithromax or Zmax. This medicine treats Chlamydia but does not treat other STDs such as syphilis or gonorrhea. Today, you are being given *one dose* of azithromycin or a prescription to get azithromycin from the drug store.

## **Before you take this medicine, please read the following:**

**If you have any of these problems, you must see a doctor or nurse as soon as possible because you may need stronger medicine.**

- **Belly pain**
- **Cramps**
- **Pain in the testicles (balls)**
- **Fever**
- **Nausea**
- **Throwing up**

#### **How do I take this medicine?**

- Take *all* the medicine at once by mouth.
- You should take this medicine on an empty stomach in order for it to work. Take this medicine at least one hour before eating or two hours after eating.
- If you throw up in the hour after taking the medicine, you will need to get more medicine from your clinic, doctor or nurse because the medicine did not have time to work.
- Do not share this medicine with anyone else.

#### **Do *not* take this medicine if...**

- You are allergic to any one of these medicines: azithromycin, erythromycin, clarithromycin or any other medicine called a “macrolide” or “ketolide”.
- You have serious health problems, such as kidney, heart, liver disease, seizures or are taking medications for these problems, including blood thinners.

*If you cannot take this medicine because of other health problems or allergies, see your doctor or nurse as soon as possible so they can recommend the best Chlamydia treatment for you.*

#### **What if I am pregnant, or think I may be pregnant?**

Azithromycin will not hurt your baby. Chlamydia can be passed on from a mother to her baby during pregnancy, and can cause health problems for the baby. If you are pregnant, take the medicine and see your doctor or nurse as soon as you can. Tell them you were treated because your sex partner has Chlamydia.

#### **What should I do after taking this medicine?**

- **Do not have sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) for at least seven days until both you and any of your sex partner(s) have taken this medicine.** It takes seven days for this medicine to cure Chlamydia. You can get Chlamydia again if you have sex before waiting for the medicine to work on you and your partner(s).
- **Get checked for other STDs.** *Azithromycin only treats Chlamydia.* Even if you take this medicine, it is important to get tested for other STDs because people can have more than one STD at a time. Get checked by your doctor or nurse for gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV.

#### **What will happen if I don't take this medicine?**

Chlamydia that is not treated can lead to infertility (not being able to have children) in both men and women. In women, untreated